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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/541,216	06/29/2005	Mark Tawa	TP15013USPCT6	4554
45511 7590 01/08/2010 WOODCOCK WASHBURN LLP CIRA CENTRE, 12TH FLOOR 2929 ARCH STREET PHILADELPHIA, PA 19104-2891				
EXAMINER CLAYTOR, DEIRDRE RENEE				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
1627				
NOTIFICATION DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
01/08/2010		ELECTRONIC		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

patents@woodcock.com

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/541,216

Applicant(s)

TAWA ET AL.

Examiner

Renee Claytor

Art Unit

1627

Period for Reply -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 September 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 46-74 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 69-74 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 46-68 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SF/CD)
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date 11/17/2006; 1/29/2007; 5/18/2009; 7/28/2009

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restriction

Applicant's election without traverse of Group I and the species of celecoxib for the API and poloxamer for the precipitation retardant in the reply filed on 9/10/2009 is acknowledged.

Claims 46-68 read on the elected species and are being examined for prior art purposes as they read on the elected species.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 46-49 and 52-57 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Arora et al. (US PgPub 2004/0029946) in view of Carter (US Patent 6,613,790).

Arora et al. teach pharmaceutical compositions that include COX-2 inhibitors such as celecoxib (paragraphs 0020-0021). Also included in the composition are poloxamers (paragraph 0024). Table 7 exemplifies a composition comprising celecoxib and a poloxamer. Arora et al. teaches that the active salt form of celecoxib can be used in the composition (paragraph 022). Arora et al. teach that appropriate gelling agents include HPC and HPMC (paragraph 0024).

Arora et al. does not teach that the salt form of celecoxib has an aqueous solubility less than about 10 mg/mL in gastric fluid conditions or the specific salt forms listed in claims 58-59.

Carter teaches pharmaceutically acceptable suitable salts of COX-2 inhibitors, including celecoxib, that include alkali metal salts and alkaline earth metals including calcium and potassium (Col. 17, lines 54-67 – Col. 18, lines 1-25). Suitable formulations include topical formulations.

Accordingly, it would be obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention and one would be motivated to use the salt forms taught by Carter in the invention of Arora et al. as Carter teaches that alkali metal salts and alkaline earth metals are suitable for celecoxib.

Per the teachings of Carter, the salt forms of celecoxib using alkali metal salts and alkaline earth metals would necessarily provide an aqueous solubility less than about 10 mg/mL in gastric fluid conditions as that is a property of the salt form of celecoxib.

Further, as the above prior art renders the composition obvious because it contains the same components, the pharmacodynamic profile as claimed in claims 60-68 would necessarily be the same.

Conclusion

No claims are allowed.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Renee Claytor whose telephone number is (571)272-8394. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sreeni Padmanabhan can be reached on 571-272-0629. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Renee Claytor

/SREENI PADMANABHAN/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1627

